

NATIONAL PARKS BULLETIN



From a Drawing by Dean Sakoci

Published by THE NATIONAL PARKS ASSOCIATION

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IN DEFENSE OF the Conservation of the National Parks System
PROMOTION OF the fullest Recreational use of our Immense
Federal Lands, and the Conservation of Nature therein, and
THE INTEREST OF Thousands of Organizations and Millions
of Americans working together for these ends

ROBERT STERLING YARD, Editor

SHENANDOAH NATIONAL PARK NAMED BY COMMITTEE

Six Hundred Square Miles of Blue Ridge Crest in Virginia Selected by Secretary Work's Experts to become the first Southern Appalachian National Park—A second Southern Appalachian National Park Also Recommended in the Great Smoky Mountains of North Carolina and Tennessee.

"WHATSOEVER THY HAND FINDETH TO DO"

CONCURRENT with the new session of Congress, an inspiring program faces the nature conservationists of the country, among whom we may now fairly include most men and women with national aspirations and wholesome love of out-of-doors.

I. Secretary Work's Southern Appalachian National Park Committee has reported its choice of a site in the Blue Ridge of Virginia to be called the Shenandoah National Park, and a bill to further its creation has been entered in Congress.

II. The Migratory Bird Refuge Bill (H. R. 745), most important wild-life conservation measure since the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of a dozen years ago, is up for passage with all oppositions overcome except of a few who still fail to understand it. Let us all write our Congressmen.

III. The Alaska Game Commission Bill (S. 2559) purposes to establish game control under favorable conditions. It will conserve Alaskan wild life while still there is time.

IV. The most progressive conservation Congress in our national history passed at the last session an act (Clarke-McNary) which will begin the rehabilitation of our depleted forests provided every one gets busy at home, not otherwise.

V. A bill will be introduced at this session for appropriations of \$40,000,000 during the next ten years for extending National Forests in the east of the United States.

VI. A joint committee of the American Forestry Association and National Parks Association is studying the recreational opportunities in 700,000 square miles of Federal lands; and this makes for realizing three projects which the National Parks Association has been urging for four years: (a) a System of Recreational Reservations in addition to the National Parks System, (b) the development of our National Military Parks into a far more useful National Historical Parks System, and (c) the adoption of standards and scientific selection for our National Monuments System.

VII. The General Council on Outdoor Recreation, which started last May, is perfecting organization to work out a practicable National out-door recreation policy.

THE report of Secretary's Work's Southern Appalachian National Park Committee, read in the House last Saturday by Representative Henry Wilson Temple of Pennsylvania, Chairman of the Committee, recommended the creation of a national park, to be called the Shenandoah National Park, on the summit of the Blue Ridge in Virginia. According to local tradition, the Indian word Shenandoah means "Daughter of the Stars."

A bill to further the park was entered at the same time.

The Committee also reported that a region of much grander scenery had been studied in the Great Smoky Mountains on the border between Tennessee and North Carolina, and that this should become a national park at a near future time. The Blue Ridge area was recommended to come first because its location insures service to a much larger number of people in a shorter period at less expense.

The full text of the report appears on a later page.

The Committee's search covered the Southern Appalachian System wherever areas existed possessing the scenic magnificence, size and other qualifications necessary to admission to the National Parks System.

The Committee consists of Representative Henry Wilson Temple, Pennsylvania, Chairman; William C. Gregg, New Jersey; Harlan P. Kelsey, Massachusetts; Colonel Glenn S. Smith, U. S. Geological Survey, Washington, D. C., and Major William A. Welsh, General Manager, Palisades Interstate Park, New York. These men presented their services and paid their own expenses.

THE SHENANDOAH NATIONAL PARK

The proposed Shenandoah National Park consists of an irregular strip of virgin forest sixty-six miles long and from eight to eighteen miles wide, stretched along the summit of the main range of the Blue Ridge where it parallels the famous Shenandoah Valley in northern Virginia, of which it forms the southeastern wall.

Its northern point is Front Royal, twenty miles south of the Winchester of Sheridan's famous ride, where the mountains rise with considerably greater abruptness to altitudes over three thousand feet. This is historic ground.

Southwesterly to its end at Jarman Gap near Waynesboro, thirty miles due west of Charlottesville, seat of the University of Virginia, and east of Staunton, Woodrow Wilson's birthplace, the range increases in altitude to well above four thousand feet, gaining in steepness of slope and roughness of contour; here summits crowd summits, fretted ridges drop hundreds and often, in consecutive precipices, thousands of feet, and innumerable little rivers cascade from both sides of the divide into innumerable pools which shelter speckled trout.

Remarkable Forest Exhibit

Though crossed by several roads, two of them famous in American history, the precipitousness of the range, forbidding profitable exploitation, has saved for us through centuries of civilization more than six hundred square miles of almost untouched native forest within ninety miles of the nation's capital and three hundred miles of its metropolis. Even Virginians have not realized their possession of a natural treasure so extraordinary.

Near Skyland, twenty five miles south of the area's northern point and five miles below the crossing of the Lee Highway at Thornton Gap, there is a narrow saddle from which the larger soft woods have been lumbered during the last quarter century; and there are several lesser areas similarly lumbered along old highways farther south. But these forest spots remain, nevertheless, beautiful, and all together the partly cut areas are trifling compared with the great body of the untouched forest, which constitutes an invaluable exhibit of the wilderness that covered eastern North America from the St. Lawrence to the Gulf when our forefathers settled at Jamestown and Plymouth.

In Silhouette

In silhouette, this proposed National Park is best seen from the Shenandoah Valley, which itself, with its parallel rivers separated by abrupt and picturesque Massanutten Mountain, its northern walls of paralleling ranges culminating in the Alleghenies of West Virginia, its broad cultivated levels dotted with historic villages, and its remarkable series of limestone caverns, is one of the most beautiful and interesting in the United States. From its excellent highways and from the railroad which follows the South Fork of the Shenandoah but shortcuts its innumerable bends, the mountain range which soon, we hope, will add still a new variety to our National Parks System, is imposing and altogether lovely. Dark and solid against the rising sun, or defined in the revealing relief of late afternoon, it impresses its personality deeply on the traveller.

Concerning Altitudes

It is important to realize that far too much is made of altitude in comparing our eastern and western mountains. The Rockies rising to twelve thousand feet from valleys nine thousand feet in altitude, or the Blue Ridge rising to four thousand feet from valleys less than a thousand feet in altitude—what difference in size to the observer? Stony Man in the Blue Ridge towers above Shenandoah as high as El Capitan above Yosemite.

It is when mountains rising from higher bases are pushed above timberline that erosion produces bald and splintered summits, while the more gracious configuration of equally lofty eastern summits with lesser underpinning are protected from disfiguration by blankets of

forest. No comparison of splendor holds, for each is beautiful in its own admirable and different way.

And if, to our unaccustomed eastern eyes, the bare crags and snow fields of the higher western mountains provoke the greater thrill, to many this advantage will be far more than offset by the superior richness of form and color in our eastern forests over the stately, somber repetitions of the ranked conifers of the western altitudes. More than a hundred tree species glorify the Appalachians, few more than a dozen the Sierra.

Let us now glimpse our coming Virginia national park from within.

Gorgeously Beautiful Mountain Wilderness

Its northern third, less in altitude and less varied in configuration, is more heavily forested. From the Lee Highway crossing, the surface southward becomes increasingly rugged, the summit groupings bolder, the streams larger, the canyons more deeply cut, the falls and cascades more numerous and wilder, the precipices deeper and more picturesque.

Entering conveniently by the Lee Highway, ninety miles from Washington, the comfortable public camp at Skyland is a convenient point of departure. It is a camp of the popular western type, its many cabins roughly bark-covered but concealing such luxuries within as electric lights and modern bath rooms. Its proprietor, G. Freeman Pollock, needed twenty years to develop it from its original canvas tent. From here our journey southward is on horseback along the divide, with many side excursions afoot into extravagantly beautiful cascaded canyons slanting sharply for several miles through heavy forests of virgin spruce, hemlock and balsam, up the edges of precipices overlooking the enormous Shenandoah valleys and range after range of distant mountains, and to the craggy summits of peaks overlooking oceans of tumbled wilderness.

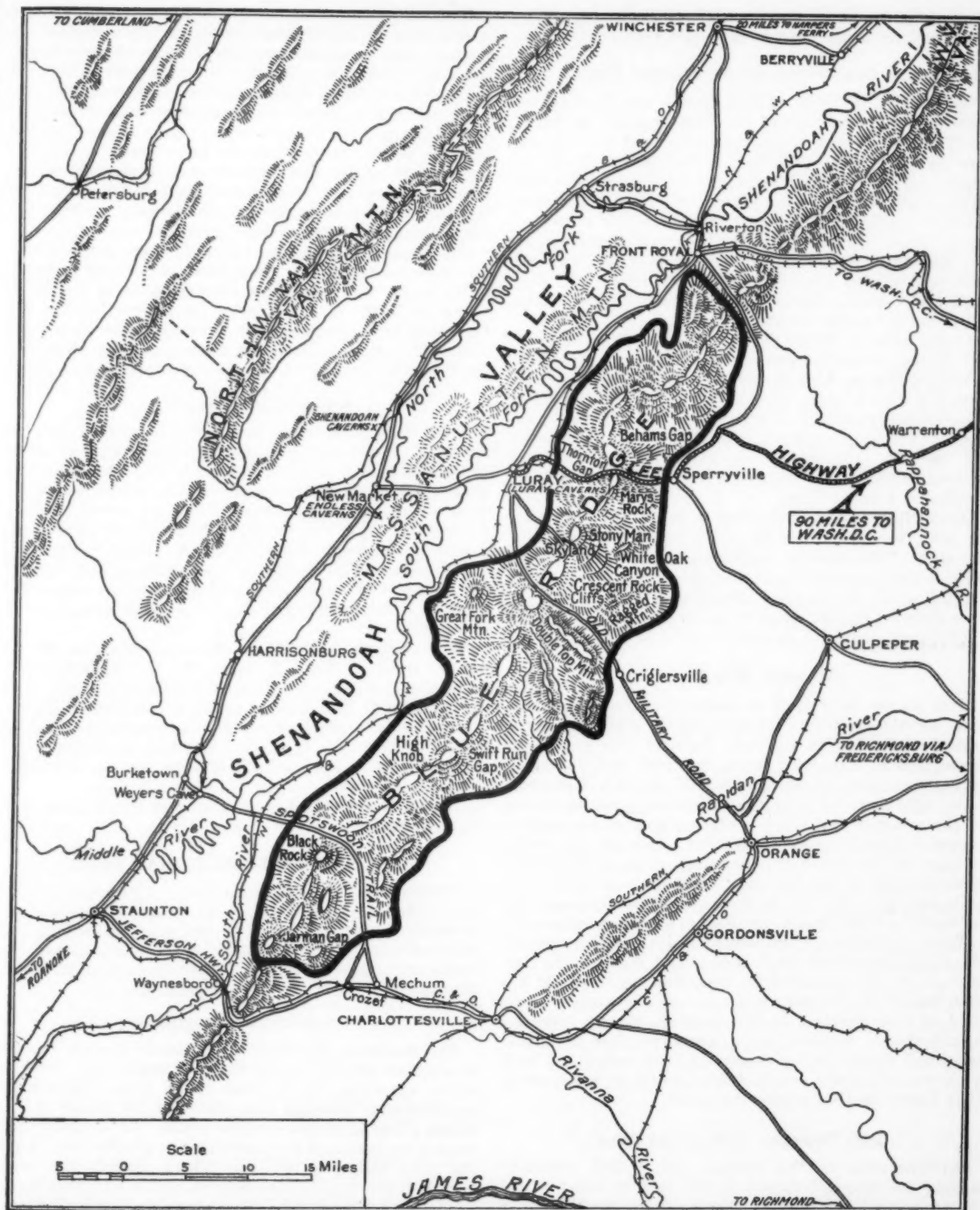
At Skyland, before we start, we encounter Stony Man, one of the most striking mountain personalities of the range, a pyramid 4,031 feet in altitude.

Summits and Precipices

From the rough lookout on its summit, we gaze steeply down three thousand feet, much of it appearing perpendicular. We overlook the broad valley of the South Fork of the Shenandoah, the river winding in snake-like curves. Luray, famous for its cavern, is seen threaded on the railroad. Beyond rises the wild, range-like Massanutten Mountain twenty-five hundred feet in altitude and thirty miles in length, concealing behind it the still broader valley of the North Fork. And beyond Massanutten rises another elongated complicated towering ridge, the North Mountain, and beyond that still others till the Alleghenies of West Virginia merge with the sky.

One of the most inspiring views in America, this from the summit of Stony Man. And, as we journey southward, we have it again from the Crescent Rock Cliffs, which drop nearly three thousand feet, and again and again for many miles from innumerable cliffs, for the steep side of the Blue Ridge is the Shenandoah Valley side.

White Rock Cliffs, encountered early on our journey, suggests a thrilling human phase of these mountains, for here was fought the finish of a celebrated feud in which three men were shot to death. The neighborhood has been famous for its moonshine for many years. Many years ago the Blue Ridge was the haven of refuge for bandits and



MAP OF PROPOSED SHENANDOAH NATIONAL PARK, VIRGINIA, AND ITS ENVIRONS

Selected by Secretary Work's Committee of experts to become the first of two National Parks in the Southern Appalachian Mountains. It is a mountain top area comprising more than 600 square miles of virgin forest at altitudes between 3,000 and 4,500 feet. It is ninety miles from Washington by the Lee Highway, and three hundred miles from New York City. Forty million people live within two days' motor journey of its center.

desperadoes who preyed upon the neighborhood settlements, and its fastnesses are so sought occasionally yet.

White Oak Canyon an Appalachian Type

Nearby, also, is White Oak Canyon, a sample of scores of canyons and itself one of the most exquisite in America. The lusty stream, a continuous succession of rushes, leaps and falls, drops 2,500 feet in four miles. Its gorge is hollowed in green epidote schist streaked with white quartz, a setting of striking beauty. On its right Ragged Mountain, Old Rag, for short, towers above slopes of virgin forest. On its left is a high abrupt escarpment of gray limestone hung from top to bottom with ferns and vines, and shaded from far above with white oak, dogwood, ash, maples, chestnut, beech, pines, birches, azalea and scores of tangled shrubs.

At any point in White Oak Canyon, standing on some rock jutting above the stream, one glances up stream at a dozen gleaming bits of foaming water, one balanced above the other in sharp perspective; and far downward at many successive brinks of little falls till all is lost in foliage. Looking downstream, above the descending forest and between converging mountain slopes, one sees tumbled foothills, far distant farms and the roofs and steeples of a valley town.

Hawks Bill, 4,066 feet in altitude, is the next outstanding peak, ramparted among dense forests. Its summit, like most of the summits, is clothed heavily with stunted twisted oaks, poplars and chestnuts interspersed with gnarled pines, cedars, and others, and these persist in more stalwart stature down its eastward slopes; its westward slopes glow with sweeping groves of silver fur.

Ancestral Blue Grass

Here we see the first of the mountain meadows of blue grass, not the carefully cultivated famous blue grass of the central south, but its ancestor, the wild blue grass that the settlers of Kentucky prized so highly and developed to the prosperity of their state. These rich forest-bordered, wild-flowered little meadows occur again and again on the summits and steep western slopes of the region, becoming larger and more plentiful as we journey south, serving to distinguish the landscape west of the divide from the close forests and rock formations east of it.

In the rich meadows of these mountain fastnesses the horses of the Confederacy were hidden in periods of danger.

Through Fisher's Gap, south of Hawks Bill, crosses the old military road built in the Civil War for the passage of armies, and used by both sides in turn. It has been impassable for many years but may be made a scenic road of rare beauty. In this isolated, utterly lonesome neighborhood, commanding a gorgeous view of mountains and distant valley, a shrewd land owner has built a charming cottage for exclusive rental to newly-weds. It is known as Honeymoon Bungalow.

Rich Diversity of Form and Color

At intervals, on the western slopes, but especially among the splendid forests of the eastern heart of the range, occur heavy groves of magnificent hemlock, trees of girth and dark, massed, feathery foliage. In the higher altitudes are also occasional groves of spruce, bunched like wheat, whose intertwined tops shut the sunlight from thick brown carpets of needles, in which for lack of light, no shrubs nor wild flowers grow.

Black, white, red, scarlet, pin and chestnut oaks grow in profusion in the glorious forests of this mountain-top country; also sycamore, gum, poplar, ash, hickory, beech, black, white and yellow birch, white pine in small original stands, long-leaved, loblolly and other pines, yellow locust, tulip, wild cherry, dogwood, azalea, laurel everywhere, rhododendron in a few thickets of very large size. These are very few of the trees and shrubs here found.

The glory of this diversified forest, tilted at all angles, ascending peaks to grey ragged crests, dropping into countless ravines and watered by a thousand streams, can only be suggested in this brief survey.

But we must mention one other of the numerous mountain personalities, Great Fork Mountain, about mid-way of the park. It is the commanding elevation of the range, rising probably to 4,500 feet. On its north slope are thousands of fine hemlocks, and ancient white pines grow plentifully on all sides to its summit of gray elongated crags which stand upright together like giant organ pipes.

A Spectacle of Spectacles

Great Fork Mountain is a spectacle from every summit for miles around, and its higher slopes command an extraordinary range of views. Westward, over the crest of the divide and across the broad intervening hidden abyss, are seen ranges many miles away. Eastward, across the deep forested gorge of the young Rapidan River, emerge the ramparts and crags of Double Top Mountain, while down the Rapidan Valley is disclosed an unforgettable vista of the distant Piedmont Valley with Criglersville among the foothills. And southward down the range are innumerable peaks.

The southern half of the proposed park is rich in rugged scenery. From Elkton in the Shenandoah Valley crosses the ancient and famous Spottswood Trail, built through Swift Run Gap to open the western wilderness which Governor Spottswood first discovered by crossing the Blue Ridge. It is now an excellent motor road, and a monument to him and his Knights of the Horseshoe stands on the crest.

The wilderness reaches its climax at Black Rock, near its southern end.

GREAT SMOKIES NATIONAL PARK

The proposed Great Smokies National Park presents the Appalachian topography in a far different grouping of elements from that offered by the proposed Shenandoah National Park, and on a scale of surpassing grandeur. Its peaks are higher, its valleys deeper, its groupings of summits vastly tumbled and more magnificent.

Appalachian Geography

The Southern Appalachian Mountain System consists throughout of very many parallel ranges and detached ridges extending in a broad sweep from Pennsylvania southwesterly through nine states to the center of Alabama, where it merges into the plains. Of all these, there emerge by reason of commanding topography two ranges, the Blue Ridge on the east which extends the entire length of the Appalachian System, and the Unakas on the west which closely parallel it along the border between North Carolina and Tennessee.

The Blue Ridge is broken only once by a subdividing river, the James, flowing eastward. The Unakas are broken by half a dozen west-flowing rivers, and the sections between these rivers have each a separate name: the

Iron Mountains on the north, the Northern Unakas next, the Bald Mountains, the Great Smokies, and the Southern Unaka Mountains.

The Blue Ridge and the Unakas ranges are separated by a broad plateau of tumbled mountains sloping westward, across which flow the rivers, from their sources in the western slopes of the Blue Ridge, whose deep gorges subdivide the Unakas. The Great Smokies is the subdivision between the Pigeon River on their north and the Little Tennessee River on their south. It is far the loftiest and roughest part of the Appalachian System.

The proposed national parks, it will be seen, represent the two principal manifestations of the Appalachians, the Blue Ridge conspicuous because it is an unbroken ridge, the backbone of the System, and the Unakas because they possess, in the Great Smokies, its climax of massed mountains.

Topography of the Great Smokies

Between their boundary rivers, the Great Smoky Mountains measure a little more than sixty miles. They consist of a central ridge, and many lesser ridges on either side, roughly connected by mountain masses. Altitudes vary from 2,000 to more than 6,600 feet. Several miles of the central ridge rise above 6,000 feet, and three peaks, Le Conte, Clingman Dome and Mount Guyot, exceed 6,600 feet.

On the eastern side of the central ridge, especially in Tennessee, the mountains are extremely rugged and precipitous. Peaks are higher, many exceeding 5,000 and approaching 6,000 feet, valleys are deeper, cliffs sheer. Many of the ridges are long, sharp and knife-like, some of them only three or four feet at the top.

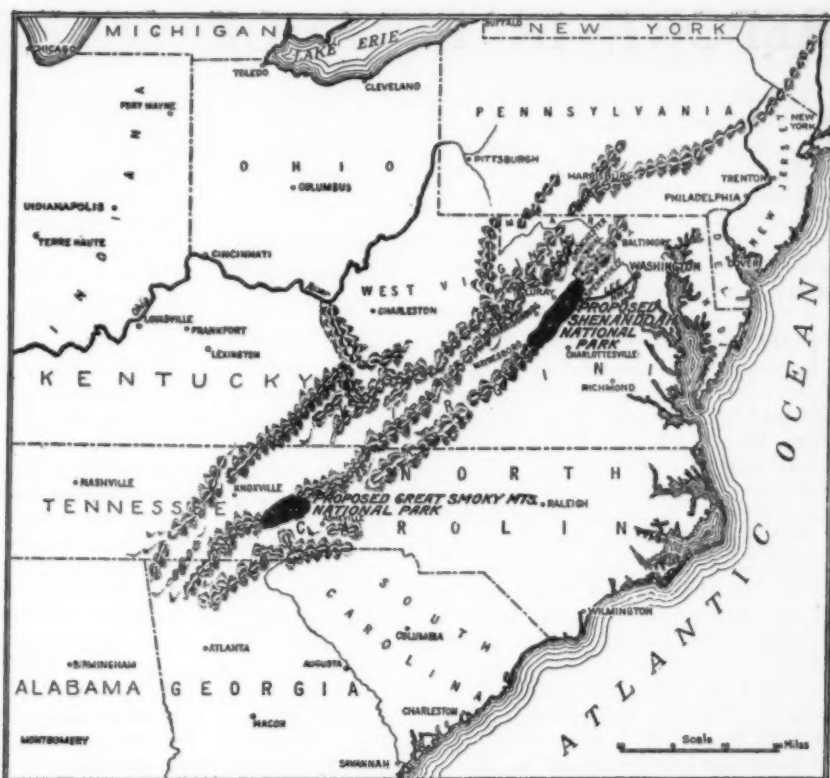
Above 5,000 feet, spruce occurs in dense stands on the levels, excluding the sun, and clinging to the sides of sharp slopes, together with oaks, chestnuts and many other hardwoods. Below 5,000 feet, balsam is prominent, and on the lower levels the forests become exceedingly rich in variety, size and luxuriance.

Large areas of splendid forest are virgin because too difficult to lumber profitably.

Impressive Massing of Mountains

Mount Le Conte, the giant of the Great Smokies, while lacking the altitude of Mount Mitchell, far surpasses it in ruggedness and grandeur.

It is one of the greater mountain personalities of the country. It has three peaks, the central of which, known as Main Top, is flanked by enormous cliffs. Clingman's Dome and Mount Guyot, which form a shallow triangle with Le Conte, are also mountains of commanding personality and magnificence, but so also are very many lesser peaks, like Mount Ranger, whose names are not



LOCATIONS OF PROPOSED SHENANDOAH NATIONAL PARK, VIRGINIA, AND GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK, NORTH CAROLINA AND TENNESSEE.

The Shenandoah National Park has been chosen to be created first because its location will make it more quickly serviceable to a greater population at less expense. The Great Smoky Mountains National Park will be a necessary addition to the National Parks System because it is pre-eminently the mountain climax of the Eastern United States.

known even locally. Because of their roughness and difficulty of access, very large areas of the most magnificent of these mountains have remained unvisited and practically unknown for years.

Horace Kephart lists these interesting altitudes: Clingman's Dome, 6,680 feet; Mount Guyot, 6,636 feet; Mount Le Conte, 6,600 feet; Richland Balsam, 6,540 feet; Water-rock Knob, 6,400 feet; Mount Collins, 6,400 feet; Jones Knob, 6,300 feet; Lone Bald, 6,016 feet; Cold Spring Knob, 6,010; Rough Butt Bald, 6,010 feet; Reinhart Knob, 6,000 feet. In addition to which he cites seven others unnamed, totaling eighteen mountains 6,000 feet or more in altitude.

"There are so many between 5,000 and 6,000 feet in altitude," he writes, "that I suppose it would take one a whole day to pick them out on the (U. S. Geological Survey) map and list them. Along the Smoky Divide there is a stretch of twenty-eight miles, from a point east of Guyot to a little west of Siler's Bald, where the whole mountain range is a mile or more above sea level."

These altitudes, while unremarkable in a continental sense, help us picture the grandeur of the mountain massing of the Great Smokies, adding the testimony of topography to that of the explorers that here is the mountain climax of the United States east of the Rockies.

It is evident that the Great Smokies are destined before long to add to our National Gallery of Scenic Masterpieces its greatest eastern picture.

REPORT IN FULL OF SECRETARY WORK'S AP

Following is the report made to Secretary of the Interior Work on December 12, 1924, by his Southern Appalachian National Park Committee, which spent eight months investigating the national park opportunities in the Southern Appalachians. This report was presented to Congress on December 13 by Representative Henry Wilson Temple of Pennsylvania, who was chairman of the Committee, together with a bill to further the creation of the Shenandoah National Park.

THE members of the committee appointed by you and designated as the Southern Appalachian National Park Committee, in accordance with your instructions, have spent the past eight months investigating the southern Appalachian Mountain Region with a view of determining whether areas exist of sufficient size, containing scenery of such grandeur, and at the same time typical of the region, which are suitable to be considered as a site for a national park.

"Nature calls us all, and the response of the American people has been expressed in the creation, so far, of nineteen national parks. All but one are west of the Mississippi River. The two-thirds of our population living east of the Mississippi has contented itself with a few State parks, not knowing that in the southern Appalachian Ranges there are several areas which fill the definition of a national park, because of beauty and grandeur of scenery, presence of a wonderful variety of trees and plant life, and possibilities of harboring and developing the animal life common in the precolonial days but now nearly extinct.

Entire South Deeply Interested

"It has not been generally known that eastern parks of *National* size might still be acquired by our Government. The committee has been impressed with the amount of interest manifested in all sections of the East in the proposed establishment of a national park in the southern Appalachian region, and this interest has resulted in numerous requests that the committee inspect various areas. Many of these requests pertained to localities that have abundant scenic features, but which are not of sufficient size to warrant their being considered for a national park. Every effort has been made to consider carefully the merits of the various proposed sites, and wherever there was evidence that an area seemed to justify the committee in making a personal inspection, visits have been made either by the committee as a whole, or by a delegation from it. Many of the areas in these mountains having unquestionable national park features are now in the national forests under Government control and so available for recreational use; the committee is not disposed to suggest a change in their present status.

Careful Search of the Region

"We inspected the northern part of Georgia whose fine mountains blend with the Highland region of southern North Carolina. We ascended Mt. Mitchell and viewed the splendid Black Mountain range north of Asheville. We went over carefully the Grandfather Mountain region, which for our study included the beautiful country from Blowing Rock to remarkable Linville Gorge. We responded to the call of the poet—to see Roan Mountain if we would really see the Southern Appalachians. We went to Knoxville and from there to the tops of "The Big Smokies"

which carry on their crest the boundary line between North Carolina and Tennessee. We went into Virginia to inspect that portion of the Blue Ridge on the east side of the Shenandoah Valley which extends from Front Royal to Waynesboro. Some members of the committee also visited Cumberland Gap, southern West Virginia, northern Alabama, and eastern Kentucky.

"Several areas were found that contained topographic features of great scenic value, where waterfalls, cascades, cliffs, and mountain peaks with beautiful valleys lying in their midst, gave ample assurance that any or all of these areas were possible for development into a national park which would compare favorably with any of the existing national parks in the West. All that has saved these nearby regions from spoliation for so long a time has been their inaccessibility and the difficulty of profitably exploiting the timber wealth that mantles the steep mountain slopes. With rapidly increasing shortage and mounting values of forest products, however, we face the immediate danger that the last remnants of our primeval forests will be destroyed, however remote on steep mountain side or hidden away in deep lonely cove they may be.

Conditions Often Prohibitive

"The conditions in the East where all land is held in private ownership, as compared with those existing in the West when national parks were created from Government-owned lands, has made our problem a difficult one. The density of population, together with the commercial development in progress or in prospect, often practically prohibited the selection of areas of great natural beauty which if located remote from such development would have been seriously considered.

"It is the opinion of the committee that a park in the East should be located if possible where it will benefit the greatest number and it should be of sufficient size to meet the needs as a recreational ground for the people not only of today, but of the coming generations. The committee

TO THE WOMEN

By MRS. JOHN DICKINSON
President General Federation

THE Southern Appalachian National Park Committee appointed study of a great scenic and recreational region. It has reported stand out which possess extraordinary qualifications to represent masterpieces which is officially called our National Parks System.

The greater of these from the scenic and natural wilderness point the boundary line between North Carolina and Tennessee. But the National Park a location in the Blue Ridge of Virginia for the reason greater body of people, and can more quickly and cheaply be brought

This choice, observe, has not been determined by comparative people of the United States.

The General Federation of Women's Clubs is a service organization for service in the world, and there are none more devoted. I appeal of America, to support wholeheartedly and enthusiastically the choice System is a service system or it is nothing.

The General Federation of Women's Clubs has consistently supported years. It has long advocated National Parks in the East. In the future we shall have the opportunity to welcome the Great Smoky Mountain area of even greater magnificence and natural beauty.

APPALACHIAN NATIONAL PARK COMMITTEE

therefore decided that no site covering less than 500 square miles would be considered. This eliminated a large number of proposed areas and allowed the committee to concentrate its efforts on a few that appeared to be possible sites on account of their size, location, and favorable scenic features. These sites have been thoroughly examined.

Rules Guiding the Committee

"The committee laid down a few simple requirements for its guidance in seeking an area which could be favorably reported to you for the possible consideration of Congress:

- "1. Mountain scenery with inspiring perspectives and delightful details.
- "2. Areas sufficiently extensive and adaptable so that annually millions of visitors might enjoy the benefits of outdoor life and communion with nature without the confusion of overcrowding.
- "3. A substantial part to contain forests, shrubs and flowers, and mountain streams, with picturesque cascades and waterfalls overhung with foliage, all untouched by the hand of man.
- "4. Abundant springs and streams available for camps and fishing.
- "5. Opportunities for protecting and developing the wild life of the area and the whole to be a natural museum, preserving outstanding features of the Southern Appalachians as they appeared in the early pioneer days.
- "6. Accessibility by rail and road.

"We have found many areas which could well be chosen, but the committee was charged with the responsibility of selecting the best, all things considered. Of these several possible sites the Great Smoky Mountains easily stand first because of the height of mountains, depth of valleys, ruggedness of the area, and the unexampled variety of trees, shrubs, and plants. The region includes Mt. Guyot, Mt. LeConte, Clingmans Dome, and Gregory Bald, and may be

extended in several directions to include other splendid mountain regions adjacent thereto.

"The Great Smokies have some handicaps which will make the development of them into a national park a matter of delay; their very ruggedness and height make road and other park development a serious undertaking as to time and expense. The excessive rainfall also (not yet accurately determined) is an element for future study and investigation in relation both to the development work, subsequent administration, and recreational use as a national park.

Two National Parks Requested

"The Blue Ridge of Virginia, one of the sections which had your committee's careful study, while secondary to the Great Smokies in altitude and some other features, constitute in our judgment the outstanding and logical place for the creation of the first national park in the Southern Appalachians. We hope it will be made into a national park and that its success will encourage the Congress to create a second park in the Great Smoky Mountains which lie some 300 miles distant southwest.

"It will surprise the American people to learn that a national park site with fine scenic and recreational qualities can be found within a 3-hour ride of our National Capital, and within a day's ride of forty million of our inhabitants. It has many canyons and gorges with beautiful cascading streams. It has some splendid primeval forests and the opportunity is there to develop an animal refuge of national importance. Along with the whole Southern Appalachians, this area is full of historic interest; the mountains looking down on valleys with their many battle-fields of Revolutionary and Civil War periods, and the birthplaces of many of the presidents of the United States. Within easy access are the famous caverns of the Shenandoah Valley.

"The greatest single feature, however, is a possible skyline drive along the mountain top following a continuous ridge and looking down westerly on the Shenandoah Valley from 2,500 to 3,500 feet below, and also commanding a view of the Piedmont Plain stretching easterly to the Washington Monument, which landmark or our National Capital may be seen on a clear day. Few scenic drives in the world could surpass it.

"We therefore recommend the creation of a national park in the part of the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia above described and shown approximately on the map.

National Cooperation Necessary

"We have not attempted to estimate the cost of acquiring this area as we are not sure that it falls within the scope of our committee's work. We suggest, however, that a spirit of constructive cooperation on the part of the State of Virginia and among some of the large land owners of this region with whom we have been in touch promise reasonable prices and perhaps a number of donations.

"We suggest that if Congress thinks favorably of this proposed park site, a commission be appointed to handle the purchase and to solicit contributions, and to arrange condemnation proceedings if the State of Virginia deems it wise. The creation of such a park may well be made contingent on a limited total land cost."

Signed by H. W. Temple, William C. Gregg, Harlan P. Kelsey, Glenn S. Smith, and William A. Welsh.

WOMEN OF AMERICA

DICKINSON SHERMAN
Federation of Women's Clubs

was appointed by Secretary Work eight months ago has concluded its report as reported that, among the opportunities discovered, two areas represent the Appalachians in the picture gallery of American scenic System.

hermes points of view is an area in the Great Smoky Mountains upon But the Committee recommends for the first Southern Appalachian the reasons that it is more centrally located, will serve better a far be brought into service.

comparative grandeur of scenery but by the service it will give to the

ce organization. The women of America constitute the largest body I appeal, not to General Federation women only, but to the women ly the choice of Secretary Work's Committee. Our National Parks

istently supported and defended our National Parks for many It welcomes the Shenandoah National Park. I hope that in the near t Smoky Mountains National Park which is conceded to be a scenic

NEED OF INCREASING NATIONAL FORESTS IN THE EAST

American Forestry Association will ask Congress for Millions of New Acres in the Lake States and an Enlarged Program in White Mountains and Appalachians

By OVID M. BUTLER

Executive Secretary National Forestry Association

SPEEDING up the work of acquiring National Forests in the eastern half of the United States is demanded by the American Forestry Association in announcing a program to be brought to the attention of Congress for the purchase of 8,000,000 acres of virgin forest, second growth and idle cut-over lands east of the great plains. No new authority is needed in going forward with such a plan except the authority to appropriate money to put existing laws to work. Furthermore the system of National Forests proposed can be made to form the background of industrial stability and wholesome recreation for seventy-five per cent of our population.

Acquired Forests Now Paying Their Way

A start on this work has been made in the thirteen years since the Weeks Law was passed in 1911 providing among other things for the acquisition of lands for National Forests on the headwaters of navigable streams. Purchases totaling 2,346,000 acres have so far been made in the White Mountains and the Appalachians and examination of large areas completed so that numerous bargains may be closed as soon as Congress makes appropriations available. The lands already purchased and under management by the Forest Service are producing more than enough revenue to cover the cost of their administration.

The American Forestry Association program properly asks Congress to say how far it wishes to go in making actually possible through appropriation the program which it has endorsed as good policy in passing the Clarke-McNary bill.

The New Program

Specifically, the plan has for its objectives, two and one half million acres in properly distributed forest units in the Lake States of Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Michigan; the continuation of the original program of forest land acquisition in the White Mountains and Appalachians on an enlarged scale, which will add three million acres during a ten-year period, and a system of forests aggregating two and one-half million acres in the pine producing regions of the south.

The expenditure would aggregate \$40,000,000, which would be available at the rate of \$3,000,000 a year during the first five years and \$5,000,000 a year during the second five years.

40,000,000 Acres Cut-over in Lake States

Purchases of forest lands by the Government in the Lake States and the South are urged by the Association for the best economic reasons. The pineries of the Lake States furnished the cheap lumber that made possible the early development of the great agricultural areas of the Middle West. There are today in these states some 40,000,000 acres of cut-over land chiefly valuable for growing forests, and most of it virtually non-productive of any wood growth of value.

These lands should be made the natural storehouse from which those same agricultural regions may in fu-

ture years derive their needed supplies of timber. Chicago is now the greatest lumber market in the world, and 2,500,000 acres of National Forests in the Lake States, as proposed under this program, would be naturally tributary by water and rail to the market demands of the largest agricultural region on the globe.

East Must Look to the South

The great pine region of the South, embracing some 115,000,000 acres, of which 80 per cent has been lumbered, contains some of the most productive forest land on the continent. It is to this region that the East must look for its main supply of new and rapidly grown wood. National Forests aggregating 2,500,000 acres, and well distributed through this great region, will not only furnish timber urgently needed by the industrial region east of the Mississippi, but they will provide practical demonstrations of what can be done with the vastly greater area of similar lands in that region under private forest management.

Another feature of the program worthy of serious consideration is its proposed contribution to the outdoor recreation needs of our most densely populated regions. Thousands of people who long for a chance to enjoy the woods and mountains cannot afford to travel long distances to our western Natural Parks and Forests. With the realization of the plan for eastern National Forests these people will be in reach of areas which have been made accessible and convenient through wise administration for the raising of forest products.

Aggressive endorsement and support of all Associations and individuals interested in the business-like progress of conservation, is needed for the success of this program and all are urged to keep in touch with The American Forestry Association at 1523 I. Street, Northwest, Washington, D. C.

NEW NATIONAL MONUMENTS

By proclaiming a tract of land in Arizona containing prehistoric ruins the Wupatki National Monument, President Coolidge has made this the record year, numerically, in the development of our National Monument System. This is the eighth created in the year 1924. The previous record for numbers was made in 1908 with seven National Monuments. Six were created in 1906, and five in 1923.

This year's National Monuments are, Chiricahua, Arizona, in the Agricultural Department; Craters of the Moon, Idaho, and Wupatki, Arizona, in the Interior Department; and the Statue of Liberty, New York, Castle Pinckney, South Carolina, Fort Pulaski, Georgia, and Fort Marion and Fort Matanzas, Florida, in the War Department.

There are now thirty National Monuments in the Interior Department, fourteen in the Agricultural Department, and eight in the War Department.

There are no common standards nor standard makers for National Monuments, and it is time that the System was organized to preserve its integrity.

NOW TO PASS THE MIGRATORY BIRD REFUGE BILL

Anthony Bill Regarded by Students of Wild Life Everywhere as the Most Important Nature Conservation Measure, by far, for Many Years

THE principal conservation measure before the present session of Congress is the Migratory Bird Refuge Bill, H. R. 745, sponsored by Senator Anthony of Kansas. Its purpose is to retain what we can, by purchase, of the remaining swamps and shallow waters throughout the United States in whose neighborhoods ten hundred and seventy-seven species of migratory birds find breeding places and rest between flights. These lands are lessening constantly and dangerously by the operations of drainage companies whose salesmen everywhere are soliciting the business of unnecessarily draining them.

The only possible method of saving uncountable millions of our most attractive and valuable birds is to buy these properties and turn them over to the United States Biological Survey to administer as bird sanctuaries.

Sportsmen to Pay All the Costs

By the sportsmen this is inaccurately called the Public Shooting Grounds bill, because some of the areas, after they become government property, will continue open to shooting five or six species of aquatic birds, in season. But others, now open, will become perpetually closed to shooting.

The bill loads upon the sportsmen the entire cost of purchasing and maintaining these refuges, by levying a new tax for shooting several of the aquatic species, including ducks and geese, which resort there. The sportsmen pay no Federal tax now for shooting these same birds, in these very places, but they are perfectly ready to pay it to shoot aquatic birds anywhere, provided only that Congress will spend the tax money to save the resting and breeding places for game birds, and incidentally, for more than a thousand other species which cannot be hunted, anyway.

Measured in Bird Lives Saved

Next to the Migratory Bird Treaty legislation of a dozen years ago, this is the most important wild-life conservation bill of any kind, measured in bird lives to be preserved, which has ever been before Congress, and in our opinion it is the duty of every man and woman in the country to work personally for its passage. Write to Senator Anthony.

It is of vital importance to our National Parks System, because most National Park birds are migratory and are dependent in some part for their increase upon the very sanctuaries outside of the parks which it is this bill's purpose to save.

How the Fund Will be Raised and Used

The machinery for the proposed new law is simple. Each sportsman desiring to shoot migratory aquatic game birds, which constitute a small proportion of our migratory birds, will pay at any post office one dollar for his season's license, which is so small an addition to his hunting expenses as to be negligible.

The Migratory Bird Protection Fund thus collected is expected to reach a million dollars a year. Of this, forty-five per cent will go for the purchase of suitable land and water areas for refuges, forty-five per cent for meeting the deficiencies in the appropriations for the enforcement of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, the balance for expenses.

In approximately half of these reserves, which now are open to shooting, shooting will be absolutely prohibited. Others will be open to limited shooting of several species

of game birds during the legal season; but, including sanctuaries, these reservations will produce yearly a thousand times the number of birds that are shot.

Control and Management

The purchase of the lands will be administered by the same Commission which has so successfully administered the Weeks Act for the purchase of National Forest lands in the East. It consists of the Secretary of Agriculture, the Secretary of Commerce, the Postmaster General, two Senators and two Representatives.

The practical work, including the choice of land, will be carried out by the United States Biological Survey, which is now successfully administering the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and maintaining national wild life refuges.

This is a bill that all conservationists should not only approve, but should help personally to have enacted.

THE FEDERAL LANDS SURVEY

At a meeting of the Joint Committee on the Recreational Survey of Federal Lands, representing the American Forestry Association and the National Park Association, Philip R. Hough was appointed Chief Clerk. Mr. Hough leaves the service of the Bureau of Public Roads to take charge of this important and complicated work. He has had wide experience in the western wilderness.

The following have volunteered their services as a Government Advisory Committee to assist us in the survey:

War Department:

Rivers and Harbors: Major James A. O'Connor
Training Section, Athletics: Major Thomas J. Johnson
Oil Pollution Committee: Major Gordon R. Young
Real Estate Division: Major Merrill D. Wheeler
Public Buildings and Grounds: Captain Ellis E. Hering.

Navy Department:

Reservations: Captain Arthur P. Fairfield.

Interior Department:

General Land Office: Captain George E. Hair
Office of Indian Affairs: Assistant Commissioner Edgar B. Meritt
Geological Survey: J. B. Sears, Administrative Geologist, and Colonel Glenn S. Smith, Acting Chief Topographic Engineer
Bureau of Reclamation: Chief Clerk J. B. Beadle
National Park Service: Assistant Director A. B. Cammerer.

Agricultural Department:

Forest Service: Chief W. B. Greeley
Biological Survey: Director E. W. Nelson
Bureau of Public Roads: Editor H. S. Fairbank.

Department of Commerce:

Bureau of Fisheries: Commissioner Henry O'Malley
Coast and Geodetic Survey: Director E. Lester Jones.

While fighting a disastrous fire in the Chelan National Forest, Washington, last August, rangers found a scrap of wrapping paper showing the printed address of a shop in Spokane. With this slender clue, clever detective work identified the careless perpetrators, who have confessed and paid their fines.

GRINNELL AND STORER ON YOSEMITE ANIMAL LIFE

A Notable Book Reviewed by Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Bailey

Animal Life in the Yosemite.

By Joseph Grinnell and Tracy Irwin Storer, University of California Press, 1924.

THE National Outdoor Recreation conference of last May, with its committees on birds, game, and fur-bearing animals, emphasizing the importance of wild life in recreation, made especially timely the appearance of this notable volume by Grinnell and Storer, from the University of California Press.

As a contribution from the University Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, of which the senior author, Dr. Joseph Grinnell, is Director, it naturally covers the entire field of vertebrate life, and includes some 355 kinds of terrestrial animals—97 mammals, 231 birds, 22 reptiles (snakes and lizards), and 12 amphibians (frogs, toads, and salamanders).

While scholarly treatment and painstaking accuracy of detail give it first rank as a scientific work, the simple presentation of its interesting facts make it a book of prime value to the lay visitor to the Yosemite, so fulfilling its avowed purpose.

To add richness of experience to outdoor recreation in the Yosemite has been the first object of the book, for, as the authors say in the preface, a visitor "who leaves the region without gathering some definite knowledge of its natural history has failed to get adequate gains from his opportunities."

A series of helpful, suggestive, and enlightening chapters are given in the introduction. That treating of the methods of field work in the area studied may well serve as a model for future conscientious students. A chapter on the distribution of animal life in the Yosemite section—an area of 1,547 square miles—supplies a general discussion of the principles of distribution and limitation of the range of species, illustrated by cross section diagrams showing the life zones occupied by birds and mammals, and graphic colored tables making clear the zonal distribution of mammals, birds, reptiles, and amphibians. These illuminating charts prepare the student for a ready understanding of a folded colored map of the life zones of the typical transverse section of the central Sierra Nevada called the Yosemite section.

This "narrow rectangular area, 89 1/4 miles in length by 17 1/3 miles in width," extends from the hot bottom of the San Joaquin Valley across the mountains with their lofty snow-patched peaks down to the middle of Mono Lake. With altitudes ranging from 250 to 13,000 feet, the section includes all the life zones above the Tropical—Lower Sonoran, Upper Sonoran, Transition, Canadian, Hudsonian, and Arctic-Alpine—all the climatic belts one would pass through in a trip from the Tropics to the North Pole.

It would be difficult to find a better section for illustration of the laws of distribution of life on the North American continent, and it is safe to say that no section of this extent has ever been so carefully and thoroughly worked out or so graphically presented.

Following the chapter on distribution is one giving numerous censuses of birds observed at various localities in the region at different times of the year, helpful to the beginner as well as the advanced student. Closing the introduction is a chapter on the inter-relation of living things which opens a fascinating field for speculative study

of the balance of nature attained by evolution through geological ages.

The helpful and suggestive treatment followed in the introduction characterizes the treatment of the 355 kinds of animals that may be found by the student of the region. *Field characters* replacing the usual technical descriptions of more formal works, cover general appearance, color, markings, characteristic movements, voice, and sign, easily observed by the amateur. *Occurrence*, replacing the more formal distribution, treats of abundance, and seasonal, zonal, and geographic distribution in the Yosemite section, with details of habitats.

The general accounts of the species treat especially of nests or dens, eggs or young, the care of the young, feeding habits, relation to plants and other animals, and, when occasion arises, the general biological principles illustrated in the life of the animal.

The 97 species and subspecies of mammals found within the Yosemite region are given 203 pages of text and illustrations, the sub-species, as with the other animals, being well subordinated in footnotes, although in the case of subspecies of mammals their range is made clear by zonal diagrams. The notes on habits are mainly first hand observations of the authors or associated field naturalists, largely unpublished, new facts of great interest and importance.

The 231 birds are given 378 pages of text and illustrations. They are treated from so many different angles that the pages are not only full of fresh interest but are eminently suggestive and stimulating, containing a store of material of general ornithological and biological interest.

Among the subjects upon which new observations are recorded are the various calls, cries, and songs, or evolved language of highly developed birds used doubtless to "the advantage of the species"; adaptation in flatness of form in certain wrens for passage through horizontal crevices; protective and directive habits, markings, and colors; courtship use of color patches, courtship flights; nests, prospect holes of woodpeckers; partnership nesting; deceptive tactics in the decoy of enemies; late nesting of flycatchers due to late insect supply in the mountains; foraging movements before and after the nesting season; food; birds feeding on the Mono Lake fly; molt; migration; aerial evolutions.

The illustrations, whose numbers might well have been augmented, include 12 colored plates, 2 colored maps, 47 half-tone plates, and 65 figures in the text, all of which add immeasurably to the educational value of the book. Especially helpful for purposes of identification are the colored plates of grouped mammals, birds, or skinks, the enlightening text figures of species conveniently placed in their biographies; and the half-tone plates on which a number of species are compared, notable among which are the leaping rodents, the diurnal birds of prey seen overhead in flight, and the lizards, toads, and frogs of the region. Landscape photographs illustrating the various life zones inhabited by certain species are also helpful. While the illustrations all serve a utilitarian purpose, two among the colored plates by Major Allan Brooks rouse enthusiasm for their esthetic value—the frontispiece of the Sierra Rosey Finch with its setting of mountain and sky, and the beautiful Band-tailed Pigeons sailing over their native forest.

While the area covered in "Animal Life of the Yosemite" is restricted, the intensive field work on which it is

based, its inclusion of all vertebrate life, its original material in text and illustration, together with its philosophic point of view, make it not only a notable contribution to science, but an intensely interesting book for those who visit our parks, with their exceptional opportunities for the study of outdoor life.

FLORENCE MERRIAM AND VERNON BAILEY.

YOSEMITE MUSEUM BEGUN

Corner Stone Laid With Appropriate Ceremonies and Occupancy Expected Next May

THE corner stone of the Yosemite National Park Museum, gift of the Laura Spelman Rockefeller Memorial, was laid by Chief Naturalist Ansel F. Hall on November 16 last. The occasion was the dedication, by Director of National Parks Stephen T. Mather, of the new Yosemite Village east of the Yosemite Falls which is to replace the present village. The new Administration Building was formally opened.

In his corner-stone address, Mr. Hall told the dramatic story of the development of the Yosemite Museum from its small beginnings, and of the start, in Yosemite, of the Nature Guide System which is now spreading into all the National Parks.

The new museum, which will be completed next May, will be a dignified building of granite with a second floor of timber. The exhibition floor will be covered, for the safety of the exhibits, with an unbroken concrete slab. Headquarters for the Nature Guide System, laboratories, offices and store rooms will occupy the second floor.

To Prepare the Mind of the Visitor

In the west end of the exhibition floor will be a commodious library to which many valuable historical and other books dealing with Yosemite and the Sierra will be contributed. A special room will contain the Mather Library. A feature of the main exhibit will be two large rooms devoted, respectively, to the geologic history of the Yosemite, and the procession of the life zones from the California plains up to the Sierras crest. The former will be illustrated by successive pre-glacial and post-glacial scenes carefully modelled and with painted backgrounds. These will be designed to impress upon the visitor the significance of the spectacles which he will witness during his sojourn in the valley.

There will be ethnological and historical exhibits. The early Indians of the Valley, the coming of the miners—these and other scenes tending to impress the whole story of Yosemite will be emphasized. Besides which there will be the customary museum collections.

The east end of the building is designed as an open-air auditorium until more commodious accommodations develop. The roofed piazza along the rear of the museum will exhibit rock and life forms. Examples of trees and wild flowers here will enable visitor to recognize them in the wilderness or identify species which he has noted.

CENSUS OF YELLOWSTONE WILD ANIMALS

A recent enumeration reports, in Yellowstone National Park, the following wild animals:

Elk, not including the Jackson Hole herd, 20,000; buffalo, Lamar Valley herd, 689; buffalo, "wild" herd, 85; antelope, 395; mountain sheep, 600; mule deer, 1,800; white-tailed deer, 40; moose, 450; black bear, 200; grizzly bear, 60.

ROYAL PALM HUMMOCK

Caroline A. Mitchell Reports on a Florida Jungle Which Will be Offered for a National Park

DURING the spring and summer, newspapers published at Fort Myers, Florida, stated that Barron G. Collier was about to present the Royal Palm Hummock, on the west coast of Florida, near Naples, to the United States for a National Park.

The following description of the Royal Palm Hummock is by Miss Caroline A. Mitchell of Riverside, Illinois:

"As far as I have been able to learn, there are only three areas in our country where the Royal Palm is native, all in Florida. One is Royal Palm State Park of about one thousand acres, sixty-four miles south of Miami, which was established and is managed under the supervision of the Florida Federation of Women's Clubs. Another is the larger area back in the unsurveyed big swamps of Collier County, and is practically inaccessible to the public.

A Difficult Tropical Jungle

"The third is the area which I visited in March, 1924. It lies on both sides of the Tamiami Trail about fifteen miles east of Marco, and stretches out in rather elongated areas. There are approximately 750 Royal Palms in all. The distinguishing characteristic is that the Royal Palms stand up as high again over the tops of the other trees of the jungle.

"A walk of a quarter mile on either side of the Tamiami Trail through pine woods or swamps brings one to the edge of a true tropical jungle.

"It is impossible to see ten feet in any direction. The only place one can walk without cutting every step with a hatchet is the bed of a creek which is thick with black muck.

"The one thing growing in this muck was the White Spider Lily. Contrasting with the exquisitely dainty blossom of this lily, which I knew so well in the conservatory at home, were the fresh tracks, clearly shaped in the muck, of a good sized bear. Deer and coon tracks had been seen near the edge of the hummock. The trees, besides the live oak and the mahogany, were, as well as the vines, of many kinds which we did not know. The ferns were everywhere taller than our heads and of all kinds; practically every fern we think of in the north as being tall were several times as large here. The tree trunks and branches were covered with the little everlasting fern; also the Hartstongue Polypody (*Polypodium Phyllitidis*); also air plants and orchids.

Danger of Their Passing

"In making one's way through the fascinating tangles of this hummock, one could easily not see the Royal Palms at all, since the only evidence was the straight smooth trunk penetrating the myriad plant life in a truly dignified manner. The Royal Palms, indeed worthy of their name, could be seen here and there where there was a little peep of the blue sky; they stood far up in it, with all their graceful lines a part of the circle of the heavens. The blossoms of last year and this year hang in daintiest clusters as truly a part of them as the fleecy clouds of the summer sky.

"I cannot remember seeing one young Royal Palm tree. Since the people of Fort Myers and Naples have got all their trees there for more than twenty-five years, they are mostly gone. I learned that, if any one wanted a considerable number of young trees now for planting, they had to be obtained from the other hummock back in the interior."

THE NATIONAL PARKS ASSOCIATION

TO MOBILIZE OUR FEDERAL LANDS FOR RECREATION AND NATURE CONSERVATION

1512 H STREET, N. W., WASHINGTON, D. C.

OBJECTS

- To conserve nature and to win all America to enjoyment of it.
- To promote a system of National Recreation Reservations in the federal lands which shall not be subject to the standards and restrictions of the National Parks System.
- To protect our National Parks System from all industrial uses, to uphold its standards, and encourage its higher uses. It is the country's one museum system of undisturbed nature and our national gallery of scenic masterpieces.
- To promote the development of our system of National Military Parks into a system of National Historical Parks to commemorate other and often greater events in our national history than only battles.
- To promote the adoption of standards and scientific selection for our National Monuments System.
- To aid specialist organizations, by popular promotion, in their work for forest rehabilitation, wild bird and wild animal protection and the better protection generally of American species in natural environment.
- To interest popular organizations of all kinds everywhere, scientific, educational, patriotic and civic societies, motoring, mountaineer, travel and sportsmen's clubs, wild life and conservation organizations and the people generally in cooperative work for these beneficent objectives.

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